

What is Claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing aluminum alloy sheet in a continuous in-line sequence comprising:
 - (i) providing a continuously-cast aluminum alloy strip as feedstock;
 - (ii) hot or warm rolling the feedstock; and
 - (iii) annealing or solution heat-treating the feedstock in-line, depending on alloy and temper desired, to produce the aluminum alloy sheet.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising quenching the feedstock prior to rolling in Step (ii).
3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising tension leveling and coiling of the aluminum alloy sheet.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the continuous-cast aluminum alloy strip has a thickness of about 0.06-0.25 inches.
5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the continuously-cast aluminum alloy strip has a thickness of about 0.08-0.14 inches.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the hot or warm rolling in Step (ii) is carried out at a temperature of about 400° to 1020°F.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the feedstock has a temperature of about 300° to 850°F upon exit from the rolling in Step (ii).
8. The method of Claim 2, wherein the quenching is water quenching.
9. The method of Claim 2, wherein the feedstock exits the quench at a temperature of about 400° to 900°F.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the feedstock after the hot/warm rolling of Step (ii) is about 0.02 to 0.15 inches.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein at Step (iii) the feedstock is annealed in-line at a temperature of about 700 ° to 950°F.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the annealing is carried out for a period of about 0.1 to 3 seconds.

13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising quenching the feedstock after Step (iii) to a temperature of about 110° to 720°F.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the quench is a combination water and air quench.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein the aluminum sheet has a thickness of about 0.02 to 0.15 inches.

16. The method of Claim 1, wherein at Step (iii) the feedstock is solution heat-treated in-line at a temperature of about 800° to 1060°F.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the solution heat treatment is carried out for a period of about 0.1 to 3 seconds.

18. The method of Claim 16, further comprising quenching the feedstock after Step (iii) to a temperature of about 110° to 250°F.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the quench is an air quench.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein the aluminum alloy sheet has a thickness of about 0.02 to 0.15 inches.

21. The method of Claim 1, wherein said aluminum alloy is selected from the group consisting of 1XXX, 2XXX, 3XXX, 5XXX, 6XXX and 7XXX Series alloys.

22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of moving the cast strip through a trim station prior to quenching.

23. The method of Claim 1, further comprising one or more hot or cold rolling steps in addition to the rolling at Step (ii), prior to the annealing or solution heat treatment in Step (iii).

24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising one or more additional quenching steps between said hot or cold rolling steps.

25. The method of Claim 23, further comprising one or more heating steps between said hot or cold rolling steps.

26. The method of Claim 23, wherein the aluminum alloy sheet has a thickness of about 0.007 to 0.075 inches.